

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.

SATURDAY, September 21, 1895.

CROSBY & NOYES, Editors.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular

and permanent family circulation

much more than the combined cir-

culation of the other Washington

dailies. As a News and Advertising

Medium it has no competitor.

In order to avoid delays, on ac-

count of personal absence, letters to

THE STAR should not be addressed

to any individual connected with the

office, but simply to THE STAR, or to

the Editorial or Business Depart-

ments, according to tenor or purpose.

Not the Least of Local Advantages.

Washingtonians who have been sojour-

ning in trolley-ridden cities and who

have returned to the city of importance

in the country where the trolley practically

is not, will sympathize with the writer who

in today's Star discusses the disadvantages

consequent upon the rampant power of the

trolley in so many of our great commercial

centers. Of course the people who are now

compelled to patronize the trolley will

assuredly welcome the information that

method be supplanted by the latest and

best in the field of electrical invention;

such as are now operated on some of the

leading roads in Washington. But that

much-to-be desired end is not likely to be

achieved without great exertion. The

legally-established corporations will fight

to the last post for their charter rights

and the people will have to fight the great

combinations of wealth and political power

to overthrow the plans of public-spirited

citizens, who even now see how much of a

blunder was made when permission was

given the overhead trolley companies to

take possession of as many streets as the

companies asked for. Had Washington as-

sumed wisely to the demands of the trolley

companies, we would now have in

successful operation such admirable cable

and underground electric systems. That

the bulk of Washington's population was

opposed and is opposed to the trolley can-

not be questioned, but there were a few—

and some of these were men of prominence

—who thought it old-fashioned to oppose the

trolley, and who tried to listen to the trolley's

opponents to the persons who worried

George Stephenson by their contentions

adverse to the locomotive. Some of these

unannounced friends of the trolley wielded

of The Star's trolley-defeating iteration;

but since those days the error of their

ways has become apparent to them, and

they now rejoice in common with practi-

cally everybody else in the use of the

trolley from the city limits. For very many

reasons, Washington is an extremely de-

sirable place of residence, and not the

least of these reasons is set forth in the

discussion to which attention is herein

directed.

More Pay for Firemen.

Chief Parris of the District fire depart-

ment does well to continue the fight for

more pay for the men of his efficient and

valuable force. This is a campaign that

requires courageous persistence, and the

experience of Washingtonians with Con-

gress shows that the only way to obtain

necessary reforms is by persistent effort.

It is to continue to make recommendations

year after year until the reasoning is

brought home to the legislators, sometimes

only too sadly by a terrible calamity. Few

residents of this city who have benefited

from the exceptionally fine service of the

local fire department will challenge the

truth of Chief Parris' opinion that "the

firemen do not receive recognition due them

in the way of pay for the hard, trying

and dangerous duties imposed on them,

which they perform with unflinching cour-

age." In no other service of the munici-

pality is so much given for so little. In

comparison with the dangers and the re-

quirements the pay is pitifully small, and

that this is the opinion of a man who has

been a taxpayer of the city was amply

evidenced last year by the tremendous

petition presented to Congress, signed by

thousands of representative citizens. Chief

Parris can count on the support of even

more people this year than last, for since

that petition was circulated the value of

the department to the community has been

still further demonstrated.

Consolidate the Proposed Crematoriums.

A correspondent pertinently asks why

there should be three crematoriums for the

destruction of garbage established in this

city. The question is one that should be

seriously considered by the District

Commissioners before reaching any definite

decision as to the manner in which the

city's refuse should be disposed of. Of course

it is to the financial advantage of the

garbage contractor that he be not required

to make long hauls, but it would seem as

though the public was really deserving of

a little more consideration than even a

remarkably successful blunder. There prob-

ably are garbage-disposal plants so perfect

while several of the experts captured from ten to fifteen dollars per day. New York City has a population of about four thousand professional mendicants; Philadelphia has quite half that number; Washington has comparatively few, yet too many. The duty of the police is plain, for they find them along the streets and in the public places which is continually being practiced upon people who are inclined to be generous. So long as apparently-deformed men and miserable-looking women and half-clad children are permitted to display themselves in public places with assumed hunger in their faces and with all outward evidence of their degradation and degradation, so long will sympathetic but thoughtless fellow-beings contribute more or less toward the support of those who do not deserve the consideration they now get. The proper thing, therefore, for the authorities to do, here and elsewhere, is to remove the temptations to give by keeping the professional beggars off the street. If they may be secured by force and by the aid of the police, they are deserving people from public sources, so there is no necessity whatever for permitting those who are too lazy and too vicious to labor with their hands to annoy and practically to rob those upon whom they have no claim of any sort. The person who gives to a beggar upon the street, even the smallest of coins, does so at a great loss, for the practice of giving indiscriminately in one way or another to the beggar, who is a charitable person is always afraid lest the refusal should be made to the one deserving one in a thousand.

Plant Trees.

The efforts of Secretary Morton to revive the perishing American forests by instituting "Arbor Day," and thus inculcating among the people a love for the trees, will be more fully appreciated as the time goes and as the great value of the forests becomes more fully understood. A French writer in "Cosmos" shows with scientific accuracy that the trees have a direct and positive bearing upon climate and upon the health of the people, influencing the temperature, affecting the rainfall and checking the spread of certain forms of disease. Forests, too, show, prevent great floods, retain the soil in sudden rushes of rainfall and protect property from destruction in the event of severe wind storms. In parts of the Russian steppes, he points out, forests planted half a century ago have now attained a sufficient growth to cause a notable increase in the amount of rainfall. The same is true of the pine forests of the region. Tree-planting is for the good of posterity rather than for immediate benefit. It is an investment that cannot be counted upon to produce a return to the planter. It must therefore be done, it is apparent, under the stimulus of some semi-patriotic motive as that which is meant to underlie the new American holiday. It is really should become suggested by Secretary Morton. The seedling planted in the cleared ground is about supplied. No longer does the colonist need to carve his home out of the dense forest. The time has come to check the tree-cutting tendencies of the people and to teach them the lesson that trees are too precious to be sacrificed to whims, fantastic tastes or useless objects. The cheapness of the fuel makes wood for the stove no longer essential. In fact, it has gone far toward supplanting timber with more durable materials. The day of the cutting of a tree for need's sake is about to pass and there will succeed a time when tree lovers and tree planters will multiply and grow in influence and in deeds. Let Arbor Day be made one of the most popular of all American events.

Mr. Rose's Challenge.

That the course of Lord Dunraven in withdrawing from the international yacht races has not met with the entire approval of the English sporting public is demonstrated by the receipt of a challenge from a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron by the New York Yacht Club. It is yet too early to estimate the chances of a meeting of representative yachts of the two nations next season, as certain formalities and preliminaries must be observed in the matter of all contests for the America's cup, which Mr. Charles Rose of London now seeks to rescue from the hands of the Americans on this side of the water. Yet the fact remains that the action of the American committee in charge of the race in declining to yield to the demands of Lord Dunraven has not frightened off all foreign sportsmen from these fields. Indeed, the literature on the subject, which is becoming alarmingly voluminous, is proving more and more conclusively the absurdity of Lord Dunraven's position and the wisdom of the stand taken by the cup committee. If now, in spite of all this agreement, a race between the two nations can be pulled off, to use a sporting phrase, there will be little reason for the American people to regret the unfortunate episode of 1893, which serves to show that even a noble sportsman can get the sulks.

The Typhoid Fever Case.

The appointment by the Commissioners yesterday of a special inspector of the health department to search out the causes of typhoid fever, now so prevalent in the city, is an excellent move and one that will probably give ample justification to the expenditure involved. This terrible disease must not be allowed to gain a foothold in Washington. Constant and vigorous efforts will always be necessary to prevent its spread until the comprehensive and modern system of sewers proposed in the measure that was pending before Congress last winter has been obtained, and until steps have been taken to render still more safe from infection the water supply of the District. There is a growing suspicion that the regular outbreaks of typhoid in September that have been so noticeable in recent years are not to be attributed to local causes, but upon investigation to be traced to impure water drunk by Washingtonians who have gone from the city for their summer outings and who fall ill from this cause after their return home. If Dr. Kober can demonstrate this fact he will have done the capital a lasting service, as it is no commendation to any community for the autumn season to be marked with such prevalence of this dangerous disease as exists today.

The Valkyrie has sent her racing sails

home by steamboat and is preparing to demonstrate that even if she may not be a success as a fancy flyer she can do good service as a passenger boat.

Even if it should amount to nothing more,

there will be no doubt about Senator Davis' unanimous election to the position of favorite son.

As soon as Mrs. Langtry's press agent

gets through with her divorce proceedings her lawyers will probably take a turn at it.

The Chinese make a great mistake in trying

to redeem their lost reputation for valor by fighting among themselves.

The silver movement may be a little de-

pressed, but the free coinage of world's fair medals goes right ahead.

Possibly good feeling may be preserved if

Lord Dunraven is allowed to make the rules beforehand next time.

If Governor Altgeld's judgment were as

strong as his rhetoric he might be more convincing.

One hundred and two wage-earners were

today employed upon the city post-office building.

THE WEEK.

The events of national importance this week were the dedication of Chickamauga Military Park and the opening of the Atlanta exposition. The former celebration began Wednesday and continued through the week; veterans of both the confederate and the Union armies to the number of over 50,000 met on the field of Chickamauga, where appropriate exercises were participated in by prominent men from the north and the south. The Atlanta exposition was opened Wednesday by exercises participated in by the president and managers, the leading orators of the day being the addresses of Judge Emory Spear and Mr. Bocker T. Washington of the Tallega College for Colored Youth. Owing to serious delays the machinery was not started until late in the evening, when, by means of electrical communication, President Cleveland in his cottage in Massachusetts touched a button which set the wheels going round. 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